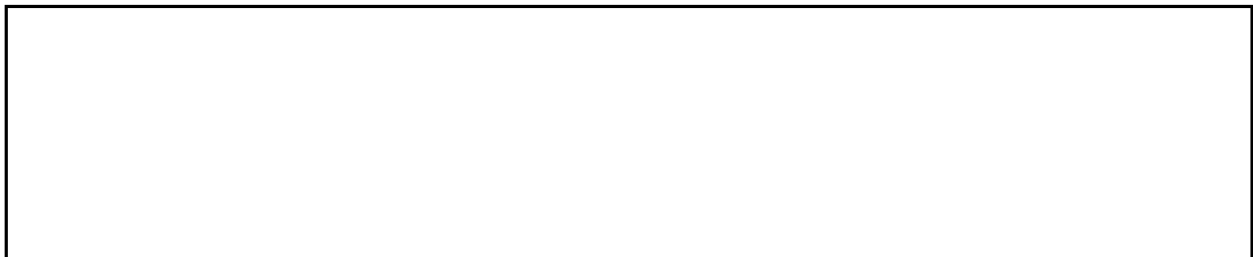


7 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator J. W. Fulbright on
25X1D **Project**

25X6



2. Turning to the ABM issue, the Senator asked how the Secretary of Defense could differ so sharply from the community estimates. We explained the Defense Department's concept of the "greater than expected threat." The Senator said it was important that people should know the true facts, and he wanted access to our intelligence estimates so that he could confront the Pentagon with them. We did not comment on this.

3. The Senator commented that all the members of his (Foreign Relations) Committee "except one--a junior one" was solidly committed against the ABM, and that even that one was now uncertain as a result of a recent conversation with former Secretary Clifford.

4. The Senator spoke of his regret over having been "taken in" by the military in connection with the Tonkin Gulf incident, and complained that Senator Russell and the Armed Services Committee had tried to deny to Fulbright and his Committee the relevant information.

SECRET

25X1D

5. Turning to our relations with the Soviet Union and the prospects for disarmament, the Senator spoke emphatically of the importance of taking advantage of present circumstances to seek some sort of agreement. Mr. Duckett noted in this connection the value of collection systems such [redacted] for verification purposes.

6. The Senator deplored the inflexibility of U.S. policy toward the Soviets, expressing the view that we had missed a great opportunity to ease world tensions by our failure to respond to Khrushchev's overtures while he was still in power.

7. The Senator said there were about ten members of the Senate who were still on the fence regarding the ABM question and he thought the Agency, which had the facts and the credibility, should make a point of briefing them. We said we always try to be responsive to requests, but were in no position to take the initiative. However, we mentioned our practice of inviting new members to visit Headquarters for general briefings.

8. The Senator's attitude throughout was cordial, informal and complimentary toward the Agency. 25X1A

[redacted]
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